

# MODALITY

**Modality** is a persuasive device used mainly in texts that argue or persuade. It involves the use of varying 'shades' of language to express degrees of meaning.

**Modality** involves the understanding and use of words that demonstrate 'shades of grey' between absolutes and moderates the degree of intensity or definiteness used in persuasion.

Using **Modality** helps to increase or decrease the speaker's or writer's commitment to statements. It helps to give weight to opinions and arguments and is used to intensify and emphasise certain points.

Use of **Modality** also helps to make reasons and arguments sound more convincing.

**Modality** can involve expressing degrees of:

**Probability** – certain, probable, likely, possible, potentially, unlikely

**Obligation** – must, ought, should, supposed to, have to, may

**Importance** – vital, necessary, integral, essential, important, required

**Certainty** – definite, will, could, might, undoubtedly, maybe, perhaps

**Frequency** – always, usually, generally, often, sometimes, rarely, never

**Extent** – completely, totally, mainly, generally, partly, somewhat, almost

**Intensity** – extremely, incredibly, moderately, slightly, scarcely

**Confidence** – convinced, positive, sure, believe, understand, suspect

**Emphasis** – absolutely, incredibly, terribly, very, really, simply, quite